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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/811,078	03/26/2004	Toshiaki Kakutani	MIPFP083	8066
25920	7590	08/16/2007	EXAMINER	
MARTINE PENILLA & GENCARELLA, LLP			VO, QUANG N	
710 LAKEWAY DRIVE			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 200			2625	
SUNNYVALE, CA 94085				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/16/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/811,078	KAKUTANI, TOSHIAKI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Quang N. Vo	2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 March 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-25 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C.

121:

I. Claims 1-8, 16-17, 20, 23 drawn to an image output control system, classified in class 358, subclass 3.12.

II. Claims 9-12, 18, 21, 24 drawn to an image output device that receives processed image data, classified in class 347, subclass 111.

III. Claims 13-15, 19, 22, 25 drawn to an image processing device, classified in class 709, subclass 202.

2. Invention I, and (II, III) are related as combination and subcombination.

Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations. (MPEP 806.05 (c)). In the instant case, the combination (an image output control system) as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination (II) and does not require the particulars of the subcombination (III) as claimed for patentability because: the specific in the subcombination (II) claim 9 recites, for example, a number data receiving module that receives dot number data of each pixel group representing a number of dots to be created in the pixel group with respect to each of the multiple different types of dots, as the image data, where each pixel group is set to have a predetermined number of multiple pixels included in the image, is particulars which is not required in the combination (I) claim 1 for patentability; the detail

in subcombination (III) claim 13 recites, for example, a control data output module that outputs dot number data of the pixel group, which represents the determined number of dots to be created in the pixel group with respect to each type of dot, as the control data to said image output device, is particulars which is not required in the combination (I) claim 1 for patentability, and the subcombination (III) has separate utility such as a allowing user to create document, the subcombination (II) has separate utility such as printing a image data/document for PDA.

3. Inventions I and II are related as subcombination disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombination are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention image output device has separate utility such as where each pixel group is set to have a predetermined number of multiple pixels included in the image. See MPEP 806.05.

4. Restriction for examination purpose as indicated is proper because all these inventions listed in this action are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious burden and examination burden if restriction were not required because one or more of the following reasons apply:

- (a) the invention has acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification;
- (b) the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art due to their divergent subject matter;

- (c) the inventions require a different field of search (for example, searching different class/subclass or electronic resources, or employing different search queries);
- (d) the prior art applicable to one invention would not likely be applicable to another invention;
- (e) the inventions are likely to raise different non-prior art issues under 35 U.S.C 112, first paragraph.

5. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a invention to be examined even though the restriction may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

6. The election of an invention may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR 1.144. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable on the elected invention.

7. Shall applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions to be obvious variants or clearly admit on

the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence of admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C 103(a) of the other invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quang N. Vo whose telephone number is 5712701121. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-5:00PM Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Y. Poon can be reached on 5712727440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Quang N. Vo

8/10/07



KING Y. POON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER